Independent claims 1-3 and 14-16 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. In particular, the independent claims have been amended to clarify that a NAK is generated based on the difference between the predetermined pattern **of expected frame types** (e.g. Expected Frame Pattern) and a Current Frame Pattern.

Hence, in accordance with the invention as recited in claims 1-3 and 14-16, **a NAK is generated based on the receipt of a frame of unexpected frame type (as predicted by the Expected Frame Pattern), as opposed to the sequence number carried within the frames received.** Thus, in accordance with the present invention the system will immediately generate a NAK upon receiving a frame other than the one that was expected, without waiting for a subsequent good/valid frame to be sent.

Gradischnig describes a system where packets are sequentially numbered and a NAK is generated when the system detects an out of sequence (e.g. missing) packet (Figure 3). Thus, the prior art describes a system wherein, when one receives a frame out of sequence, a NAK is generated corresponding to the missed frame which is identified by a sequence number, and only upon receiving a subsequent good/valid frame.

Rezaiifar also describes a system where packets are sequentially numbered and a NAK is generated when the system detects an out of sequence (e.g. missing) packet (column 6, lines 36-38). Thus, the prior art describes a system wherein, when one receives a frame out of sequence, a NAK is generated corresponding to the missed frame and/or frames which is identified by the respective sequence numbers and only upon the detecting that the system has received a subsequent good/valid frame.

Therefore, applicants agree with the Examiner that generating a NAK, upon receiving an indication that a packet is out of sequence is well known in the art, however, applicants respectfully submit that the prior art fails to teach the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that independent claims 1-3 and 14-16 are in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 4-13 and 17 are allowable at least by virtue of their
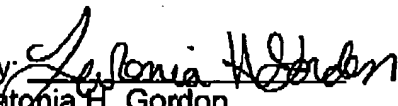
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dependency on claims 1-3 and 14-16, respectively. Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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